

Translation of letter received from the German Chancellor's office, dated 28 February 1989

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Dear Secretary General,

The Chancellor has asked me to thank you for your letter of 30 January 1989, in which you requested our help for the needy peoples of Afghanistan.

The Federal Government agrees with you about the fact that the long-suffering Afghani people must be helped by humanitarian relief aid. In his statement on the occasion of the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan on 15 February 1989, the Chancellor emphasised the willingness of the Federal Government, together with other members of the European Community, to contribute towards the international endeavour for the repatriation and resettlement of the refugees, the care of the war victims and the rebuilding of the country.

Already since 1979, the Federal Government has given humanitarian aid, which concentrated on the support of millions of refugees outside Afghanistan, but which was also of use to victims involved in the conflict within Afghanistan itself. Up until the end of last year, the Federal Government had donated 400 million Deutsch Marks for this relief aid, which also included food supplies and the so-called foreign aid for refugees. In addition to that, one must mention the considerable contributions of the many German officials working in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

As you know, the United Nations, together with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the appointed coordinator in this scheme, has put together an immediate aid plan and a rebuilding programme for Afghanistan. At the international aid conference, which convened

in New York on 12 October 1988, the Federal Republic of Germany promised 50 million Deutsch Marks for the period 1988/89, towards the United Nations aid programme. 10 million Deutsch Marks out of this total sum has already been paid out.

Depending on the further development of the situation in Afghanistan and the actual opportunities which may arise for implementing an aid programme for the needy war victims, the Federal Government is prepared to provide further means of support via the aid organisations of the United Nations, but also via German officials, who are already well experienced in such practical aid.

With best wishes,

Weigel